CLAIMS

1. A method of managing processing resources in a mobile radio system, in which a first entity manages radio resources and corresponding processing resources, the latter being provided in a second entity separate from the first entity, in which method:

    - the second entity signals to the first entity its global processing capacity, or capacity credit, and the consumption law, or amount of said global processing capacity, or cost, for different spreading factor values,

    - the first entity updates the capacity credit on the basis of the consumption law, and

    - in the case of variable spreading factor and/or variable number of spreading codes, said updating is effected on the basis of a reference spreading factor and/or a reference number of spreading codes.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said reference spreading factor is a minimum spreading factor.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said reference number of spreading codes is a maximum number of spreading codes.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein said minimum spreading factor has a predetermined value.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein said predetermined value is a function of the type of service in particular.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein said predetermined value is adjustable by operation and maintenance means.

7. A method according to claim 4, wherein, said first entity consisting of a controlling radio network

controller and said predetermined minimum spreading factor value being determined in a separate entity consisting of a serving radio network controller, said predetermined minimum spreading factor value is signaled

5   by the SRNC to the CRNC.

8. A method according to claim 2, wherein said spreading factor has a calculated value.

10   9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said calculated value is obtained from a parameter corresponding to a transport format combination set.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein, said first

15   entity consisting of a controlling radio network controller, said calculated value is calculated in the CRNC from said parameter signaled to the CRNC by a separate entity consisting of a serving radio network controller.

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11. A method according to claim 9, wherein, said first entity consisting of a controlling radio network controller, said calculated value is signaled to the CRNC by a separate entity consisting of a serving radio

25   network controller which calculates it for itself from said parameter.

12. A mobile radio system for implementing a method according to claim 1, in which system:

30   - the first entity includes, in the case of a variable spreading factor and/or a variable number of spreading codes, means for effecting said updating on the basis of a reference spreading factor and/or a reference number of spreading codes.

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13. A base station controller for a mobile radio system for implementing a method according to claim 1, said base

station controller including:

     - in the case of a variable spreading factor and/or a variable number of spreading codes, means for effecting said updating on the basis of a reference spreading

5   factor and/or a reference number of spreading codes.

14. A base station controller according to claim 13, wherein said means for effecting said updating includes means for receiving a predetermined reference spreading

10   factor and/or a reference number of spreading codes value signaled to said base station controller by a separate base station controller.

15. A base station controller according to claim 13,

15   wherein said means for effecting said updating include means for calculating a reference spreading factor value from a parameter signaled to said base station controller by a separate base station controller.

20   16. A base station controller according to claim 13, wherein said means for effecting said updating include means for receiving a reference spreading factor value signaled by a separate base station controller which calculates it for itself.